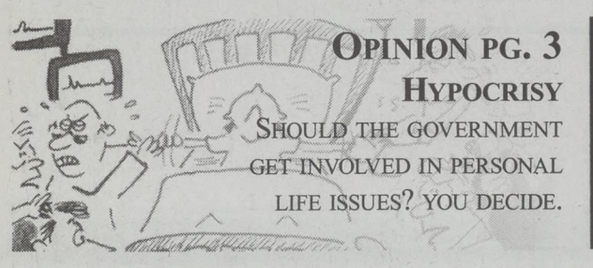
4-6-05



OPINION PG. 3
HYPOCRISY
SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT GET INVOLVED IN PERSONAL LIFE ISSUES? YOU DECIDE.



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
JAZZY MUSICAL
THEATRICAL DEBUT OF "CHICAGO" WOWS AUDIENCES.



SPORTS PG. 9
ALL STAR
VALLEY STUDENT EXCELS BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD.



GALLERY PG. 10
CELEBRATION
MUSIC AND DANCE HELD IN THE MEMORY OF CESAR CHAVEZ.

WWW.LAVC.EDU

WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 63, ISSUE NO. 5 | APRIL 6, 2005 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

FLAGS OF HOPE



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

THE FIELD OF BROKEN DREAMS- A unique memorial dedicated to child abuse awareness was erected in Downey last weekend. East Middle School helped put up 1,426 flags; 1,400 for kids from around the country that passed away from child abuse last year and 26 for local children ranging in age from 12 years old to a 1-day-old girl.

Divided ASU Limps Forward

■ **ASU president will try new approach with Executive Council.**

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Chief Justice Igor Kagan finally voiced his opinion about Associated Student Union President Levon Bagramian, saying at Tuesday's meeting that he still lacks confidence in the leader.

"I simply have no more confidence in him," said Kagan, who read a report at the meeting. "I've stayed silent long enough. It's important."

Kagan, who lost to Bagramian in last year's election, has remained silent at ASU meetings, however he was one of seven who gave Bagramian a vote of no confidence.

Last week, Bagramian submitted a statement, read by board secretary Nydia Gasperi, claiming that the board violated Robert's Rules of Order at the previous meeting and admitted having made some errors, but blamed ASU Adviser Sherri Rodriguez for his troubles with the board.

At its mid-March meeting, the ASU Executive Board asked President Levon Bagramian to resign from office and issued a no confidence vote. Bagramian was met with a volley of accusations ranging from ineptitude in leadership to breaking campaign promises to playing only to the 350-or-so students who elected him. Bagramian voiced frustration about an inability on the part of board members to work effectively with him. While a vote of no confidence is a no-action vote, Bagramian has decided to not step down.

Bagramian met with Valley College President Tyree Wieder and Rodriguez about ways to respond to the board's no confidence vote. Wieder and Rodriguez suggested two important things for Bagramian to do, number one: listen.

The second is consolatory, to help amend and remedy the problems; open his office up for members to come in to address the issues one on one.

Bagramian said the consolatory gesture means swallowing the vote of no confidence and letting members know that they are, "free to discuss [their] opinions of me."

ASU members are trying to move in a different direction, discussing the ASU's image and duties over the next few months

see *ASU* page 7

Mission Gets Pass on Cash

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After improperly receiving $5.73 million in state funds, the state controller's office is not asking Mission College to pay back the money.

"We wouldn't want to hurt the students," said Richard Steffen, staff director to Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Hillsborough, whose office requested the audit. "This is not a pay-it-back kind of thing."

The college received the funds over three years by reporting inflated enrollment figures for two noncredit computer courses, according to the state controller's office. Auditors found that students who used computers in a campus lab were automatically enrolled in a vocational course entitled "Computer Technology in the Workplace."

In the fall 2001 semester, the community college in Sylmar reported that work hours were four times the level the lab could have possibly handled given the number of computers available and the facility's schedule.

Auditors concluded that top Mission administrators were long aware of the situation but did not investigate it.

The audit did not level any accusations of fraud and some state officials said they did not expect the 7,000-student college or the Los Angeles Community

see *Mission* page 7

Orange Line is Ripening

■ **Public transportation upgrades and art projects will soon make communiting easier and even inspirational.**

BY SUSAN MALTBY
NEWS EDITOR

Construction of the $330 million Metro Orange Line is causing temporary traffic snarls at many major intersections throughout the San Fernando Valley but the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority's ambitious and artistic project is slated for completion later this year.

"We're shooting for the first part of September," said MTA spokesman Rick Jager. "We hope to have our grand opening on Labor Day."

Jager says that, once completed, the 14-mile buses-only route between North Hollywood and Warner Center will be worth the wait and construction hassles. New, high-tech 60-foot compressed natural gas Metro Liner buses will take patrons across the valley in approximately 40 minutes and provide a convenient connection to the Metro Rail Systems in Woodland Hills and the Red Line's North Hollywood Station.

"It will improve the overall flow of traffic and provide a great way to get across the valley instead of the 101," said Jager. "The new buses will be 60 feet long. Normal buses are 40-feet long so this will be something new for riders to experience."

The Orange Line will include 13 stations at approximately

see *Orange* page 2



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS - The construction for the Orange Line is underway and will be finished by early September.

Bloggers Spin Stories on World Wide Web

■ **Newest internet craze sweeps the country allowing people to express themselves freely in an open forum.**



COURTESY OF BUZZ.BLOGGER.COM

BY MARC HOWARD
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Internet opened a lot of opportunities for people to find information, e-mail friends around the world and much more. The newest Internet craze is Blogging.

"Blogging is an example of what is one of the Internet's greatest virtues," said Steven Griffin, a web columnist. "The internet puts the power of the printing press in the hands of the individual. It promotes the free exchange of information."

A blog (short for web log) is essentially an internet journal. Computer users can make entries into their journals during the course of a day that are available immediately to be viewed by anyone with Internet access. Blog topics include art, entertainment, sports, politics and medicine to name a few.

Many websites offer computer users a place to post web logs for free. A few of these sites are myblogsite.com, blogster.com and slate.com. The user can access the site and register and begin posting blogs. Registration is as easy as choosing a username and password, then the user is given access to the template in which to write then post whatever messages they choose.

The majority of the esti-

see *Bloggers* page 2

New Plan in Progress

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Vice President of Academic Affairs Tom Jacobsmeyer is asking for faculty, staff and student volunteers to become building marshals for the new emergency response plan.

The plan will be in effect in about two months, according to Jacobsmeyer. Building marshals are responsible for assigned areas in the case of an emergency such as an earthquake, chemical spill or fire.

The Emergency Response Action Team, or ERATS, has evaluated and given input into the structure of the plan. The response team consists of 150 to 175 people including all plant

see *Plan* page 7

NEWS REEL

PASSING OF A POPE:

The 264th pontiff died Saturday evening in his private apartment in the Vatican. During his 26-year term as head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II earned the love and reverance of millions of people throughout the world.

IRAQ'S NEW PRESIDENT:

Today, Iraq's first democratically elected government in 50 years will choose a new president.

Lawmakers completed an agreement making Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani president. Shiite Adel Abdul-Mahdi and interim President Ghazi al-Yawer, a Sunni Arab, will serve as his two vice presidents.

BORDER GAPS TIGHTEN:

To tighten border controls in an era of terrorist threat, Americans will need passports to re-enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, Panama and Bermuda by 2008, administration officials said Tuesday.

CAMPUS EYE

CLUB DAY:
Tsunami Relief Fundraiser,
Wednesday, April 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Monarch Square

SCIENCE SPEAKER SERIES:
Dr. Carlton Cooper of the University of Delaware
Thursday, April 14,
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Music Room 106.

CAMPUS CONCERT SERIES:
Vatche Mankerian, piano
Thursday, April 7, 11:30 a.m. at Music Recital Hall.

Valley Symphony Orchestra Chamber music
Sunday, April 10, 5 p.m. at Music Recital Hall.

DEAN'S RECEPTION:
Thursday, April 7, 2 p.m. at Monarch Hall

THINK TRANSFER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CAREER TRANSFER CENTER AT (818) 947-2646

CAREER PLANNING WORKSHOPS:
Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1 p.m. at Administration 126.
Resume Writing Workshop
Tuesday, April 19, 12:30 p.m. at Administration 126.

SPECIAL EVENTS:
College Majors Fair
Wednesday, April 13, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and explore majors and transfer options in Monarch Square.

CAREER/ TRANSFER CENTER REPRESENTATIVE VISITS:
UCs in Aministration 126
UCLA Monday, April 18, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesday, April 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
UC San Diego Monday, April 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CSUs in Adm. 126
CSUN Monday, April 11, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, April 18, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Cal State LA Tuesday, April 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES:
DeVry University
Thursday, April 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Monarch Square
University of Judaism in Monarch Square Monday, April 18, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MTA's Orange Line Soon to be Operational

continued from page 1

one-mile intervals and local artists will transform the transitway into a work of art. A public art exhibit at Pierce College running through April 21 showcases designs for the project submitted by California artists including head artist Renee Petropoulos, landscape artist Jud Fine, Sandow Birk, Laura London, Daniel Marlos, Roxene Rockwell and others.

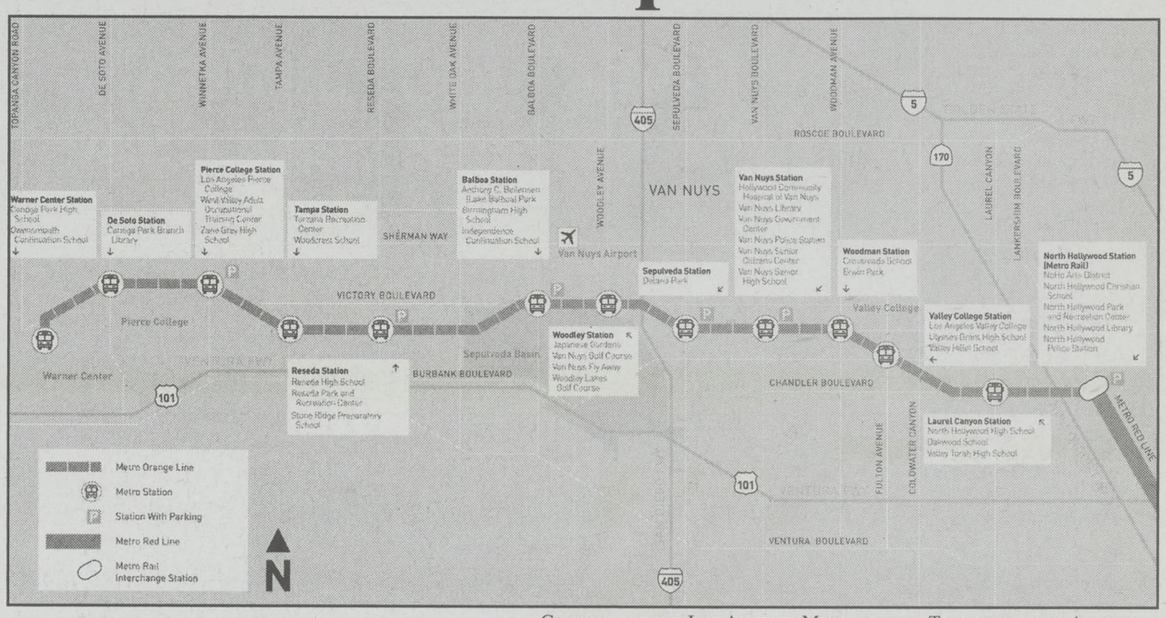
"The Metro Art Program gives [artists] an opportunity to leave an indelible mark on the public space while creating a unique sense of place for our future transitway patrons," said Maya Emsden, Deputy Executive Officer of Creative Services, in a recent Metro press release.

Gallery hours are from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Admission is free.

Six designated landscape art areas are also planned along the transitway route which will also feature 12 miles of pedestrian and bike paths, more than 800,000 new plants and shrubs and 5,000 new trees.

The project will provide approximately 3,300 parking spaces, available at key stations throughout the cities of North Hollywood, Valley Glen, Van Nuys, Reseda, Winnetka, Canoga Park and Woodland Hills.

Although Valley and Pierce colleges are the main educational institutions on the route, it will also improve access and commutes for CSUN students. This is awkward…this graph contains the first reference to Valley, but to say Valley College seems cumbersome…Can you rework it to satisfy The Star guidelines on first reference? Then, in the next graph, you could just say 'Valley President'



COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

graph, you could just say 'Valley President'

Valley College President Tyree Wieder is excited about the upcoming transit option for students. "After it opens this summer, students will be able to take a class at Valley in the morning and hop on the Orange Line to take a class at Pierce in the afternoon or vice versa," said Wieder. "Birmingham high school is also on the new route and students there will benefit as well."

Trustees Get the Nod

■ Three of the LACCD's trustees are staying put after winning re-election in last month's election.

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
STAFF WRITER

All three of the Los Angeles Community College District Trustees, Kelly Candaele, Michael Waxman and Nancy Pearlman, were granted another four years in office after winning re-election recently.

Board President Kelly Candaele, first elected to the Board in 1997, garnered 58 percent of the vote against Mark Gonzaga.

"Our District is heading in a very positive direction and we are in the process of expanding and rebuilding all of our nine campuses," said Candaele. "I'm very pleased that our board will continue to speak with one voice in Sacramento about funding for community colleges that will allow us to provide access and opportunity for our students."

Candaele was instrumental in the passage of propositions A and AA, school improvement bonds which total more than $2 billion and will fund the much-needed renovations and modernization of the nine district colleges.

Joining the board in 2001, Waxman, who ran unopposed in the election, served as chair of its external affairs committee. Waxman also serves on two other committees; budget and student success.

"Michael Waxman is a strong candidate," said Jeanne Rubin, Valley College's executive assistant to the president. "He is the son of Henry Waxman, a United States Congressman, who is hearing the baseball steroids case."

Nancy Pearlman, despite the opposition she faced from Maria Grunwald-Agazaryan and Gerald W. Pertulla, won 61 percent of the vote. Pearlman, who was first elected to the Board in 2001, now chairs the Infrastructure Committee.

"The opposition to Pearlman was that she was a strong advocate to the environment," said Rubin. "During her first term she wanted all buildings to meet a platinum standard."

The new Board of Trustees will be sworn in July 6, 2005.

CAMPUS CRIME

Smokin' Crystal Methamphetamine in the Boys' Room

BY SUSAN MALTBY
NEWS EDITOR

All "Meth-ed" Up

Called to investigate a report of vandalism at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, campus security officers discovered a suspect smoking what appeared to be a crystal methamphetamine in the men's restroom of the math/science building. The officers escorted the suspect outside and, after a pat down search, they discovered a glass pipe and a small metal container filled with what appeared to be methamphetamine. Security officers then escorted the suspect to the campus sheriff's station. A deputy searched the suspect's backpack and found numerous empty glass pipes and lighters. The suspect was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

Tires Slashed

All four tires were slashed on a car in parking lot C on Thursday, March 24, between 4:15 and 5:15 p.m. Upon returning to the vehicle and noticing the damage, the victim immediately drove to a nearby gas station and purchased new tires. The victim filed a report with campus police the following day. Police have no suspects.

Attempted Burglary

An unknown suspect tried unsuccessfully to gain entry to the tool shed on the west side of bungalow 11 sometime during the weekend.

Between the hours of 2:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1, and 7 a.m. Monday, April 4, the suspect damaged the door latch of the tool shed. No tools were missing from the shed. Police have no suspects.

Valley College Sheriff's Department asks anyone with information about these incidents please call the department at (818) 947-2911.

'Bloggers'

continued from page 1

mated 8 million bloggers nationwide do not consider themselves news writers and are not reporting on issues but simply posting on the internet their thoughts and opinions on contemporary issues, accounts of their own lives or simply corresponding with other bloggers on common interests.

There has been some faulty reporting by bloggers. In one case a blogger known as Matt Drudge reported that former presidential candidate John Kerry had an affair with an intern. There is no substantiation of this claim. It was a web log that gave life to the rumor that George Bush was receiving prompts via a device he wore under his jacket. Critics say bloggers lack training, accountability and objectivity. In other words, can the information they write be trusted?

"Whether getting your information from a blog or a traditional news source, one has to look at multiple sources to get a balanced view of a story," said David Kronke, a reporter for the Los Angeles Daily News. "The reader figures for himself what's a good report and what's a bad report. There are good and bad bloggers just like there are good and bad traditional reporters."

Lisa Struthers, also a Daily News reporter said, "blogging is good in that it promotes competition in the newsgathering media."

It was a blogger who brought to light the questionable legitimacy of the documents used in Dan Rather's report on President George Bush's having received preferential treatment in the National Guard. Michael J. Korzi, a columnist for the Baltimore Sun said in an article that most of the top political blogs and bloggers set a rather high standard in their commentary and "reporting." Top blogs have set a high bar of credibility and illustrate that blogs and mainstream journalism together can contribute measurably to the public good.

Granting Upgrades for Valley Students

■ Several grants totalling more than $1.1 million will help improve a variety of services and programs.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
DESIGN EDITOR

Valley College has received a $200,000 federal grant that will be used to develop a new nursing program and will also be applied to additional projects that will extend the campus's accessibility for students.

The grants come at a time when Valley faculty and staff are working to fulfill student accommodations within a more limited budget.

The nursing grant will finance the development of the "Fast-Track Nursing Career Program" which was designed for student success, according to Nursing Department Chair Mary Cox.

"Our main goal is to make the Valley College nursing program a school of excellence," said Cox. "We can provide nursing students with additional tools so they can graduate and pass the [registered nurse licensure exams]."

The project's goal is to boost nursing student retention rates, to develop workshops to help students seeking nursing degrees and to address better writing practices. Administrators predict that as many as 40 faculty members and 166 students will be impacted.

"We are tailoring the curriculum to our students to find out the best way to get them educated," said Cox.

Valley administrators are working towards a Federal Intermodal Facilities Grant to develop a new rapid transit station on campus. Dean of Economic Development Debra diCesare, said the school is still in negotiations to establish an exact grant amount with the Metro Transit Authority.

Construction is scheduled to be completed within 6 months of the design phase. Some of the planning elements include two Metrobus stops, special paving for crosswalks, benches with shelter, pedestrian lighting, signage, kiosk with schedule and route, campus map and telephones.

According to Valley student Dalila Lopez, who travels to the campus twice a week from Sun Valley, a bus station on campus would be great.

"I have to take three buses to get to school," said Lopez. "A Rapid Transit Station would make my life so much easier."

The college is also involved in a similar project to enhance the campus pedestrian entrances from the transit stops. An additional Federal Intermodal Facilities grant of $900,000 has been awarded to improve Valley's campus pedestrian walkways from existing transit stops on Fulton Ave., Oxnard St., and Burbank Blvd. The college will contribute $240,000 to the project, which is scheduled to be completed within 6 months of the design phase.

VALLEY STAR STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LaGina Phillips

MANAGING EDITOR
Katharine Anderson

PHOTO EDITOR
Greg Burmann

NEWS EDITOR
Susan Maltby

DESIGN EDITOR / EDITORIAL CARTOONIST
Tiffany Farmakis

OPINION / COPY EDITOR
Kathy Arellano

VALLEY LIFE EDITOR
Maggie Ownbey

SPORTS EDITOR
Zabie Mansoory

STAFF WRITERS
Tammy Funicello
Anna Goldberg
Sam Hahn
William Hines
Natan Pill-Kahan

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Khadijah Abdullah
Sevan Ghazaryan
Dan Villasenor

STAFF LAYOUT DESIGNER
Jennifer Chiu

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Nancy Kennedy

ADVISERS
Bill Dauber
Rod Lyons

TheValleyStar@yahoo.com
www.LAValleyStar.com
(818) 947-2576

The Valley Star is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Valley Glen, CA 91401, (818) 947-2576. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Materials published herein, including any opinions expressed and advertisements should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof. **Editorials** are the opinion of the editorial board only and do not necessarily represent those of the entire staff. **Columns** are the opinion of the writer. **Letters** are the opinions of the reader.

OPINION

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES. THIS WEEK: **SHOULD GOVERNMENT BE ALLOWED TO INTERVENE IN AN INDIVIDUAL'S END-OF-LIFE ISSUES?**

■ **Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com***

Some Decisions Require Extra Help

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
DESIGN EDITOR

Civil rights have always been a federal issue.

For centuries the government has gotten involved in civil rights prosecutions from "Brown vs. the Board of Education", "Roe vs. Wade" to more recent ones such as a person's right to marry their loved one, regardless of sexual orientation.

So what is the big deal with the government getting involved in the Terri Schiavo case? The scenario should seem obvious, legal disputes will eventually get resolved in court.

The court-ordered death of Schiavo has generated a lot of heat in the media particularly over the sanctity and quality of life.

Opponents declare congress's involvement as being "a federal intrusion in a family matter," or as "a violation of the separation of powers between the judicial and legislative branches." Although both issues have alarmed many legislators and citizens alike, such an act by the federal government should not be surprising.

Our government was established primarily to protect the minority from the majority thus preserving the basic rights of all its citizens.The most basic and important right being life itself.

But what about those who argue that if there is no quality of life, life is not worth living?

True, preserving life may risk prolonged suffering in a way that a patient would not choose. But our judicial system has the right to acknowledge an even greater danger - that of allowing the termination of the life of an incapacitated person, especially on the say-so of people who may believe they are doing what is best for the patient, even if it isn't.

Virtually everything about the Schiavo tragedy was fought over: The extent of her brain damage, the right of her husband to decide her fate, and the intervention by the federal government.

Yet amid all the slander and anguish, one fact remained clear, Schiavo's fate would be determined lawfully. The courts would decide whether her feeding tube should be reconnected, and their decision, whatever it finally was, would be obeyed.

In an era where Americans hear endless talk of the culture war and how a widening gap is tearing society apart, there's a measure of reassurance in knowing that when it comes to our most passionate public controversies, most will agree to live by the law.

The ruckus over the congressional involvement in the Schiavo case shouldn't be so alarming to people. There is a simple argument behind what the government's intentions were: to give a dying woman a final chance, thus erring on the side of life.

Gubernatorial hopeful Rep. Bob Beauprez, R-Colo., flew back to vote for the Schiavo bill and said he has no regrets.

"If civil rights issues are a federal issue, and I agree they

EDITORIAL CARTOON



ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

Time for the Government to Butt Out

BY KATHERINE ANDERSON
MANAGING EDITOR

For many, the most feared time of life is when it is ending. Many do not plan ahead or think of the upheaval that decisions regarding our end-of-life care can cause. We do not anticipate being kept alive for more than a decade only to have the decision to terminate our existence rest in another's hands.

Therefore, we do not document our wishes, leaving the door open for vicious battles between loved ones as to who decides our fate.

Enter the government. When all else fails and decisions can't be amicably reached, the case ends up in a courtroom. But really, is this up to a judge to decide? The judge did not know us, did not live with us and did not care for us.

So how can a judge determine our decision to live or die?

Simple. They can't.

The decision to continue existing in a vegetative state is ultimately up to the individual. Unfortunately, in the Terri Schiavo case as in so many others, no living will existed, making it the loved one's responsibility to understand and follow through on the individual's wishes.

Terri's husband Michael decided to end Terri's - and the family's - suffering by removing her feeding tube and allowing her to finally rest, claiming that his wife expressed that she would not want to live that way.

He had to go to court to do it and throughout the seven-year battle during which Terri remained in a consistent vegetative state, Congress, Florida lawmakers and even President Bush tried to intervene on Terri's parent's behalf.

Why? Doesn't society recognize an individual's right to make decisions for his or her spouse? Isn't that considered in the meaning of "till death do us part?"

Aren't most married couples so intimate that they know thoughts and feelings that even their respective parents could never know, or understand?

Who better to know and understand Terri Schiavo's wishes than her husband?

Certainly not the courts. Or Congress. Or even the President.

And the government can rest assured that when most people are considering their wishes for end-of-life care they will not be calling their local Congressman to get feedback and approval of their personal decisions.

They will most likely be discussing it with their spouse.

Obviously, it is near impossible for any politician to truly know what is best in the tragic decisions that must be made by families.

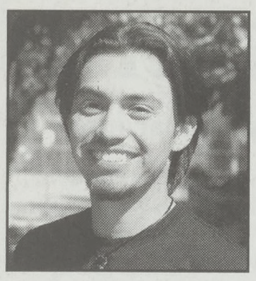
Mr. Schiavo summed it up well. "It is a sad day for everyone in this country because the U.S. government is going to come in and trample all over your personal family matters."

At this rate, Big Brother will be watching over us soon.

Campus View

Should the government get involved in right-to-die cases?

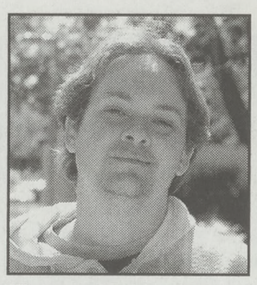
PHOTOS BY DAN VILLASENOR



"[The government] shouldn't get involved because its not up to them to decide, its my decision."
-Ray Perez,
18, Music major



""No, it should be our decision, the government has no feelings for [our loved ones] like we do."
-Amaka Nwabueu,
19, Nursing



"The president and the congress shouldn't [get] involved, it wasn't their jurisdiction."
-Clay James,
36, History major



"They shouldn't get involved because it's not up to them to decide. They are trying to play God."
-Angie Aldana,
19, Education major

Letters to the Editor

As someone who has remained close to ASU over the past two years and after reading Nelli's letter to the editor and the articles about Levon in the paper, I felt the need to write a letter to you both. I am a student, an ICC representative and an ASU family member.

When James and Juliez were here ASU worked as a family and I was proud to be a part of it. Since you two have joined this unit, ASU has changed for the worse and everyone knows it.

Levon, you were handed ASU on a silver platter and you destroyed what took years to build. How dare the two of you attack a group of people who had worked so hard to build ASU up? How dare you attack Sherri for doing her job and being there to keep the ASU family from falling apart. There was no animosity in ASU until you became a part of it and it will take years to rebuild what you have damaged.

Take responsibility for your own actions, or lack thereof, instead of pointing fingers at everyone else. Look - and see the difference you have made.

Nelli, why did you attack Theresa for doing her job. Do you even know what her ASU function is?

I thank God that I will not be here next year to see you ruin what is left of ASU.

Levon, as you stated, you only care about the 350 people who voted for you. Well, there are 18,000 students at this school and your job is to represent all of them. If you feel that you can't, or don't want to, then you need to leave. A 2-3 majority voted on your resignation and yet you are still here. Do you have something to prove?

You have turned this presidency into a monarchy, but all monarchs have to fall. I am the voice of many students who feel you have ruined ASU- those students you feel do not deserve your representation.

-Amanda Yollin,
Hillel Representative

Response to Nelli Martirosyan's Letter:

Nelli states, "… the ASU is not doing what it purports to do". Great, but what are you doing about it? Are you changing anything or are you complaining?

Nelli states, "… students are not informed about important upcoming events because of lack of publicity." What did you do to fix that? Now, you write a letter to The Valley Star to tell your side of the story, but why didn't you write one to advertise that any of these functions were happening? Or is that now the fault of The Valley Star?

It seems to me that everyone in ASU can point a finger. The president of any organization has a hard job. He or she must be a good, fair leader. If an Army general had a soldier who did not listen, that general would not have let the soldier's resentment and anger build up and spread to others.

If the current ASU president had an issue with some of the members in the beginning, he should have straightened it out then. It's too late to point fingers.

Yes, the ASU has failed: in communication, cooperation and most obviously, in professionalism. No soldier should come out against their own army no matter the cause. If they do, they will find themselves in deep waters.

Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."

If Mr. Bagramian cannot do that, then maybe he is not an effective leader.

Amanda Nevarez,
Business Major

COMMENTARY

Bagramian: Much Ado About the ASU

■ **For politicians, it's important to know when to walk away and when to run.**

BY SUSAN MALTBY
NEWS EDITOR

There are two sides to every story. Sometimes, there are even three or four.

Students at Valley College should have been informed about communication problems and bureaucratic difficulties within their student government before the situation became as volatile as it has.

For our main players in this semester's ongoing saga of Valley's Associated Student Union, there are as many sides as on the take-out menu at El Pollo Loco. The problem for the student population is that it's hard to know whose side to believe.

With the April 17 ASU election fast approaching, President Levon Bagramian may still have enough time to pack it up, pack it in and let the healing begin; and with all of his latest headaches, no one would blame him for it. But then, if he actually is a dedicated leader, Bagramian, shouldn't let someone else pull the plug just because things get tough.

Students don't have enough information to predict what road Bagramian will take or to even know which player to root for.

One side of the story is that the board has been uncooperative with Bagramian; not wanting to let an outsider into their circle. Like a bunch of schoolyard bullies ganging up on the new kid, the board has been accused of pow-wowing to get Bagramian out of office right after he was elected.

The other side of the story is that the executive council is completely accurate and Bagramian is the one who is uncooperative and unwilling to listen to his executive council members' opinions. In other words, he doesn't play well with others.

Regardless of who started what, or who said what to whom, Bagramian has obviously failed to endear himself to his fellows. Perhaps that's his biggest mistake. But is it his only mistake?

With just two months remaining in Bagramian's one-year term, the board wants him out of office, claiming that he's failed to fulfill campaign promises.

Oh, please. Name one ASU president, or any politician for that matter, who has fulfilled all of their campaign promises. Even last year's ever-popular, excruciatingly handsome and charismatic ASU President James Brevard couldn't do that, despite his chiseled muscles, magnificent wit and perfect smile. Sigh.

Although he's no James Brevard, hasn't Bagramian been an affective and effective leader for the most part? If not, the real question is: Why weren't his mistakes made public?

Whether this president fights to finish his term with dignity or chooses to walk away, Valley students may be in for a rerun of this whole episode as the stage is set for the next ASU election.

Nelli Martirosyan, Bagramian's only supporter on the board, now plans to run for the next ASU presidency.

As the executive board's current Inter-Club Council Representative, Martirosyan is presently petitioning to be put on the ballot. Martirosyan also happens to be Armenian. For students, that may mean we'll see another confusing display of accusations and political backbiting similar to what went on last time.

With the issues and uproar over whether ethnicity played a part in last year's election, it's fair to say that Bagramian's claim to the office of ASU president was controversial at best.

Many students believe Bagramian won because the student body's Armenian population voted for him solely because of his ethnicity. Bagramian beat out the heavy favorite, Igor Kagan, who served as the commissioner of political affairs last year.

Despite protestations to the contrary, Bagramian's aggressive campaigning is what really won him the election.

Although Kagan was coveted as the executive board's favorite, Bagramian beat him fairly and squarely. Consequently, Bagramian was behind the proverbial eight ball with the board from day one.

With so many people rallying against him, maybe it's time to remove the feeding tube on this ASU presidential term after all. But without enough facts to decide who to cheer for, curious and concerned Valley students can only wait and see who's going to walk away and who's going to run.

In the next election, the student body is responsible for electing a president with strong communication skills. No matter who wins the office, the board must put aside personal feelings and devote more meeting time to problem-solving rather than arguing.

The bottom line: at least tell the student body what's going on so we can get in on the fun by forming a circle and chanting "Fight, fight, fight!"

VALLEY LIFE

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, April 6

ASU Presents:
'A Wave of Relief'
Tsunami Relief Fund Raiser
Monarch Square
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday, April 7

Vatche Mankerian, piano
11:30 a.m.
Music Recital Hall
Admission is free

Friday, April 8

Margaret Cho
8 p.m.
Wiltern LG
$29.50 to $ 45
also: Saturday, April 9
7:30 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Film Release:

Fever Pitch
Dir: Bobby Farrelly & Peter Farrelly
Drew Barrymore, Jimmy Fallon
Comedy/ Romance

Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9

LAVC Theatre Dept. Presents:

Chicago the Musical

Dir: Pete Parkin
8 p.m.
Mainstage Theatre
$15 General Admission
$10 Students and seniors
Reservations:
(818) 947-2790

Sunday, April 10

Valley Symphony Orchestra
Chamber Music
5 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
$20 general admission
$15 students and seniors

Thursday, April 14

LAVC Jazz Band
Woody James, Conductor
11:30 a.m.
Music Room 112
Admission is free

Friday, April 15

Film Release:

The Amityville Horror
Dir: Andrew Douglas
Horror

Family Guy--Live
8 p.m.
Wiltern LG
$53.50 to $68.50

Saturday, April 16

Showcase Awards 2005
8 p.m.
Mainstage Theater
$10
Tickets: (818) 947-2623

Monday, April 18

LAVC Wind Ensemble
Dean Immel, Conductor
8 p.m.
Mainstage Theatre
$5

THEATER REVIEW

And All That Jazz ...

■ **Valley's performance of "Chicago" brings a tale of adultery, murder and deceit to the Mainstage Theatre.**

BY ANNA GOLDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students will find themselves in a world of cold murderers and hot jazz as they travel to "Chicago," a 1975 Fred Ebb-Bob Fosse- John Kander musical with a sinister plot and funny dialogue.

"I've always loved [Chicago]. It's a fun show," said Peter Parkin, Valley's theater department chair and director of the musical. "I wanted to do it because no one has done it for a while. I had hard time getting the rights for it."



CYNTHIA PERRY / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

RAZZLE-DAZZLING - The cast of "Chicago" finds Roxy Hart not guilty of murder in this sideshow style courtroom scene.



CYNTHIA PERRY / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

JAZZ BABIES - Madison Gray and Marjorie Vander Hoff play two jazz-era murderesses dueling for fame and fortune in Valley College's production of "Chicago."

Finally after nearly 10 years, Parkin got his chance.

Finding the right cast for the show wasn't an easy task. "They have to be able to sing, dance and act," said Parkin. "And that's not easy to find on a college campus, but I'm happy with the people who were chosen."

The 19-person cast, with Marjorie Vander Hoff doubling as choreographer, and Madison Gray in the lead roles as Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly will dazzle the audience with sexy costumes, energetic dance numbers and catchy songs.

The plot revolves around Roxie Hart, a married woman who is not satisfied with her life. She has a brush with the law after she murders her lover in cold blood.

"[Roxie] is an interesting person," said Hoff. "She has a deluded sense of truth. She lives in her own world. And she's a star of that world."

Roxie meets Velma Kelly in prison and the two begin a rivalry not just over their lawyer, Billy Flynn, played by Eric Billitch, but also for the place in the spot light created by the media's obsession with celebrity.

Although Gray, who will soon earn her AA degree in theater from Valley, is not a stranger to the stage – she was in Valley's productions of "Our Town" and "Reunion" – this is her first major role.

"I love her because she's bad," Gray said when asked what draws he to the character. "She's a strong woman and is doing what she wants."

The cast was accompanied by a six-piece band led by Jennifer Kelly, associate professor of music and director of choral activities at Valley, creating a feel of a 20s night club.

While acknowledging its own efforts, the cast credits the success of the show to its director. "Peter Parkin made this show this great," said Ron Loetz, the 31-year-old theatre major who plays Amos Hart, Roxie's naïve husband. "He pulls it out of you."

"Chicago" will be at Valley's Mainstage Theatre Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9. For more information or to purchase tickets call 818-947-2352.

FILM REVIEW

Sinfully Sadistic



"Sin City"
Dir. Frank Miller and Robert Rodriguez

★★★★★(out of 5)

■ **Comic book style graphic violence makes this action-packed thriller both visually stunning and truly entertaining.**

BY NATAN PILL-KAHAN
STAFF WRITER

When Frank Miller's graphic "Sin City" novels came out in 1993 they were called many things: misogynistic, gratuitously violent, disgusting and awesome. The movie adaptation co-directed by Miller and Robert Rodriguez manages to perfectly emulate the feel of the books; so if murder, torture and prostitution offend you it's time to turn the page.

Almost a film noir, "Sin City" is not quite black-and-white, and it's not quite realistic enough, but that's part of what makes it so much fun and so visually stunning.

"Sin City" is a fast-paced, action-filled movie with gut-wrenching violence, beautiful scenery and, with the exception of Michael Madsen, the acting is exquisite. Elijah Wood is incredible, portraying a serial-killing child rapist with a chilling grin, while Mickey Rourke pulls off his best performance in years.

"Sin City" tells three of the six original stories, which are set in Basin City, a place where it's always a stormy night, the women are either barmaids or "whores" and there is crime and violence everywhere. The movie is shot monochromatic while hints of bright color highlight details such as the hair or eyes of a woman, the blood of a cop or a red Ferrari.

The first of the three tales is based on "The Yellow Bastard" and stars Bruce Willis as veteran Detective Hartigan and Michael Madsen as his partner Bob. Hardigan works on one last kidnap-rape assignment that may end up being his last.

The second arc stars Mickey Rourke as Marv, a disgusting ex-con, and Jamie King as Blondie, a beautiful prostitute who picks up Marv. What follows is 45 minutes of Marv's violent revenge against Blondie's killer.

The third story, "The Big Fat Kill," stars Benicio Del Toro as crooked cop Jackie Boy, who leads the pack of stars that include Brittany Murphy, Clive Owen, Rosario Dawson, Michael Clarke Duncan and Alexis Bledel. The girls end up in unsavory Old Town and run into more trouble than they bargained for.

Each of the six graphic novels are composed of eight-to-12 comics created by Miller in 1991.

The viewers revisit the first vignette, and Hardigan is just waking up from a coma. Framed by his partner, Hardigan must risk his life once again.

Whether you've followed the comics or if you've never traveled to "Sin City", you will enjoy this wild ride on the haunches of a highly stylized action-noir.

CONCERT REVIEW

Sounds of Valley's Symphony Orchestra

■ **Our own VSO is a community treasure and the finest sound around.**

BY KATHY ARELLANO
OPINION EDITOR

Although Valley College's refurbishment plans do not include a new concert hall, its orchestra boasts an impressive roster of professional musicians and is, according to Orchestra Director Dr. Robert Chauls, the finest in the San Fernando Valley.

"If you want to attend a concert, you have to go downtown," said Chauls. "Valley College is centrally located and would have been a perfect location for a new [facility]."

Valley Symphony Orchestra, formerly known as the Valley College Orchestra, was born in 1992 when Chauls was hired to fill the spot of his predecessor. Due to the omnipresent plight of budget cuts the original orchestra could no longer exist in its school-supported form.

A passionate and dedicated musician, Chauls came to the rescue, creating the Valley Symphony, a free-standing community orchestra, comprised of Los Angeles-area professionals and students, and which prides itself on presenting innovative programming.

Chauls recently formed a valuable association with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, welcoming cellist Stephen Custer and violinist Lawrence Sonderling as regular guest performers.

"This orchestra gives musicians in the community an opportunity to play serious literature," said Chauls. "It offers students an opportunity to perform with professionals, although it is not [officially] a teaching orchestra."

Lack of adequate funding is a big problem, though. From the absence of a strong advertising program to inability to compete for serious professional musicians, to insufficient resources to purchase bodies of music, the orchestra's financial woes keep it from becoming the well-attended function that it has the potential to be.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

"Two Killer Bs" - 5 p.m. Sunday, April 10. The symphony's chamber music concert featuring concertmaster Sharon Cooper and L.A. Phil cellist Stephen Custer.

"Happy Birthday Brahms" 8 p.m. Saturday, May 7. L.A. Phil Violinist Mitchell Newman joins Valley Symphony in a tribute to Johannes Brahms. They'll also perform the orchestral composition of the winner of the annual competition.

General admission is $20; students and seniors $15. Tickets available in advance at the music department office or the door. Events are at Valley's Mainstage Theatre. Look for performances by the LAVC Philharmonic Choir directed by Jennifer Kelly, the LAVC Jazz Ensemble directed by Woody James and the Valley Symphony Orchestra with musical director Robert Chauls.

For more information call (818) 947-2775.

FIGHT LIKE A SQUIRREL

TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR CARTOON



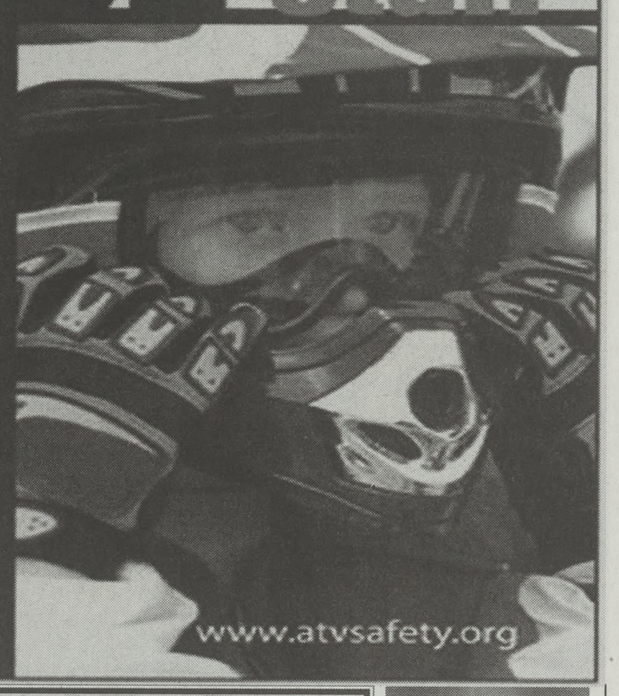
The RIDE Stuff

The ride stuff is the right stuff to keep you more comfortable and reduce your chance of injury.

Whenever you ride your ATV, always wear a helmet, eye protection, boots, gloves, pants and long-sleeved shirt or jacket. You'll be more comfortable and reduce the chance of injury.

For ATV training information call: (800) 887-2887

ATV Safety Institute
A Division of the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America



www.atvsafety.org

Advertise in the Valley Star
call our office at
818-947-2576
or e-mail us at
valleystarads@yahoo.com

Need Tutor for Macintosh Computer System X
Midi, Mail, Sibelius
(music background helpful)
$35 for 1 and 1/2 hour sessions
Hollywood Hills.
Call Nora 323-874-4545 or
e-mail: norazg@aol.com

EMPEROR EXPRESS
Chinese Cuisine
13320 Burbank Bl., Sherman Oaks
West of corner Fulton & Burbank
Business Hours
Mon - Fri 10:00am - 9:00pm
Sat - Sun 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Tel: 818-787-9235, 818-787-9245
RATED A
Dine In - Take Out
FREE DELIVERY
(min. order lunch $7.00
Diner $10.00)
No MSG
Lunch Special
$4.00 & Up
11:00am-4:00pm
10% Grand Opening discount
Coupon
FREE
(buy any combo get 1 soda free

$100 - $300 Daily
Become A Certified
BARTENDER!
40 Hour Course * Hands On Training
Job Placement * Interest-Free Payment Plans
National Bartenders School
(818) 783-0300
www.bartendingworld.com

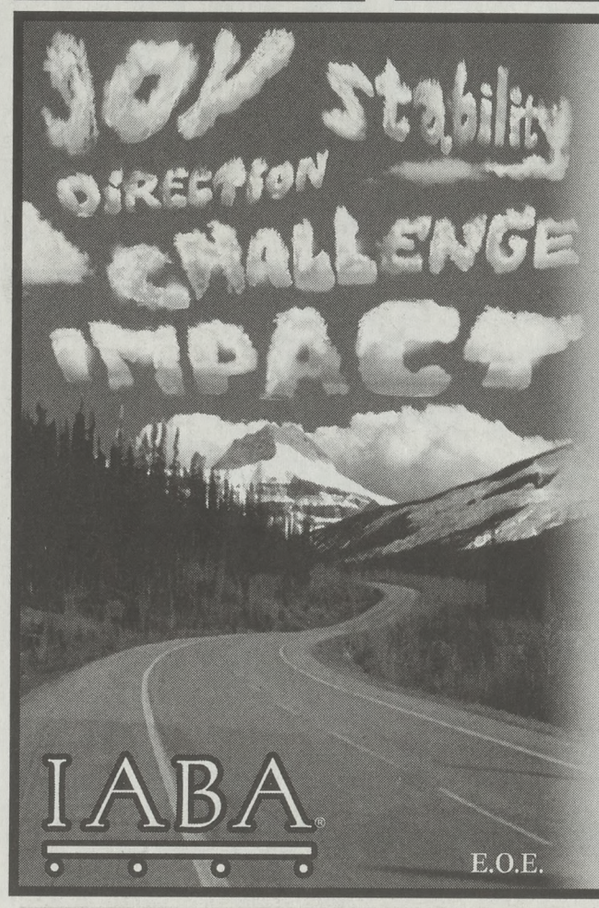
WATCH A NEW TV PILOT & GET PAID TO GIVE US YOUR OPINION!!
Location: North Hollywood area
Brenda's Recruiting Service, Inc.
(818) 759-8021

Los Angeles Valley College
LAVC
4th Annual
Women In Education
CELEBRATION



We need YOUR Nominations !!!
Nominate a female Los Angeles Valley College faculty or staff member who is dedicated to educational issues that impact the quality of our lives.
Bring completed forms to the Associated Student Union office in Campus Center 102 and put in the Women in Education Box.
Use the nomination form on the other side of this flyer.
Also available online at www.lavc.edu
April 27
Wednesday
9:00 to 11:00 AM
Fireside Room
Light refreshments will be provided
ASU Working For You
Nomination Deadline: Wednesday, April 13, 2005
This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals needing sign-language interpreters, assisted listening devices, large print, Braille materials or any other accomodations should contact the ASU office at (818) 778-5516 as early as possible.

fine arts festival
april 22
friday
check it out!



Refresh Your Destiny

IABA exists to enhance lives, by helping people with a developmental disability reach their full potential. If you are looking for a fresh direction in your career, then consider joining a team that has been refreshing destinies for 24 years. The following positions are available in the SFV:

Instructional Companion
AA or relevant exp. in Psychology, Education or related. Training and/or education in implementing 1:1 discrete trial instruction. Days, Part time. Positions available in SFV, Ventura County, and West LA.

Community Support Companion
Help people develop necessary independent living skills. AA degree or related exp. & 1 year training/exp. in providing services to individuals w/ developmental and/or physical disabilities. Full or part time.

Employment Specialist
Support individuals at place of employment and in the community. BA degree or related experience. Days/full time.

Behavior Respite Companion
Respite behavior support in home for children w/ behavior challenges. Provide companionship, supervise & monitor individuals. High School diploma, experience required. Afternoons, eve's, weekends/part time.

Direct Support positions also available in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties. All experience levels encouraged to apply: Para-Educators, 1:1 Aides or Psychology/Social Services/Education Students. You'll enjoy the rewards of a stimulating work environment, as well as attractive benefits and compensation.

Send resume to: employment@iaba.com
Fax: 310.649.3109 • Info: 877.924.2220
Visit us at: www.iaba.com
E.O.E.

SI TIRA EL ACEITE USADO, NOS EMPAPARÁ A TODOS.

Si usted cambia el aceite de su auto, deshágase de su aceite usado en forma segura, reciclándolo en un centro de recolección, o en la mayoría de las tiendas de auto partes y gasolineras con servicio automotriz. Llame al (888) CLEAN LA para obtener información sobre el centro de recolección más cercano a usted. Porque al cambiar su propio aceite, usted ahorra un poco de dinero, pero al reciclarlo le ahorra mucho más.



(888) CLEAN LA

Un mensaje del Departamento de Obras Públicas de la Ciudad de Los Angeles. Patrocinado por fondos de la Junta de la Administración Integrada de Desperdicios de California.

Como una entidad cubierta bajo el Titulo II del Acto de Americanos con incapacidades, la Ciudad de Los Angeles no discrimina basado en incapacidad y, si lo requiere, proporcionará el alojamiento razonable para asegurar el acceso igual a sus programas, servicios, y actividades.

RECICLE ACEITE USADO

Los Angeles Valley College

Register now

... Session 1 begins June 13, 2005!

Summer Sessions

LAVC

SESSION 1: June 13 – July 17, 2005
SESSION 2: July 18–August 21, 2005



To get your registration appointment go to **www.lavc.edu** or call STEP Registration System: **(818) 988-2222**

Choose from more than 350 classes!

- **Get a head-start** – prepare for Fall Semester
- **Plan for your future** – Valley College is the #1 Transfer College in the San Fernando Valley
- If you need help paying for summer classes, **visit LAVC's Financial Aid Office now!**

LAVC's **Fall 2005 Semester...** Sept. 6 – Dec. 22, 2005



What's your scholarship?



Find your scholarship opportunities at our re-launched Scholarship Channel.

Visit www.lavalleystar.com

powered by: BrokeScholar

NEWS

'Plan' *from page 1*

facilities personnel, Sheriff's officials and building marshal volunteers.

"Then the plan will be completed from an operational standpoint," according to Jacobsmeyer.

The number of building marshals will vary from 30 to 70 depending on the semester; for instance, fewer marshals are needed during the winter and summer sessions.

'ASU' *from page 1*

more positive image," said sociology major and ASU member Asma Asif. "The ASU has done a lot this year but their image is not good; but they are working hard as a team on fixing it, [we want to] leave our mark."

Some of the items the ASU is working on for the coming months include the Dean's Reception, a tsunami relief fundraiser, the fine arts festival and the 2005 ASU elections.

"Talking to students to explain the benefits of ASU is one way of keeping spirits up, said ASU Vice-President Jessie Salas. "[The election is a] pivotal event."

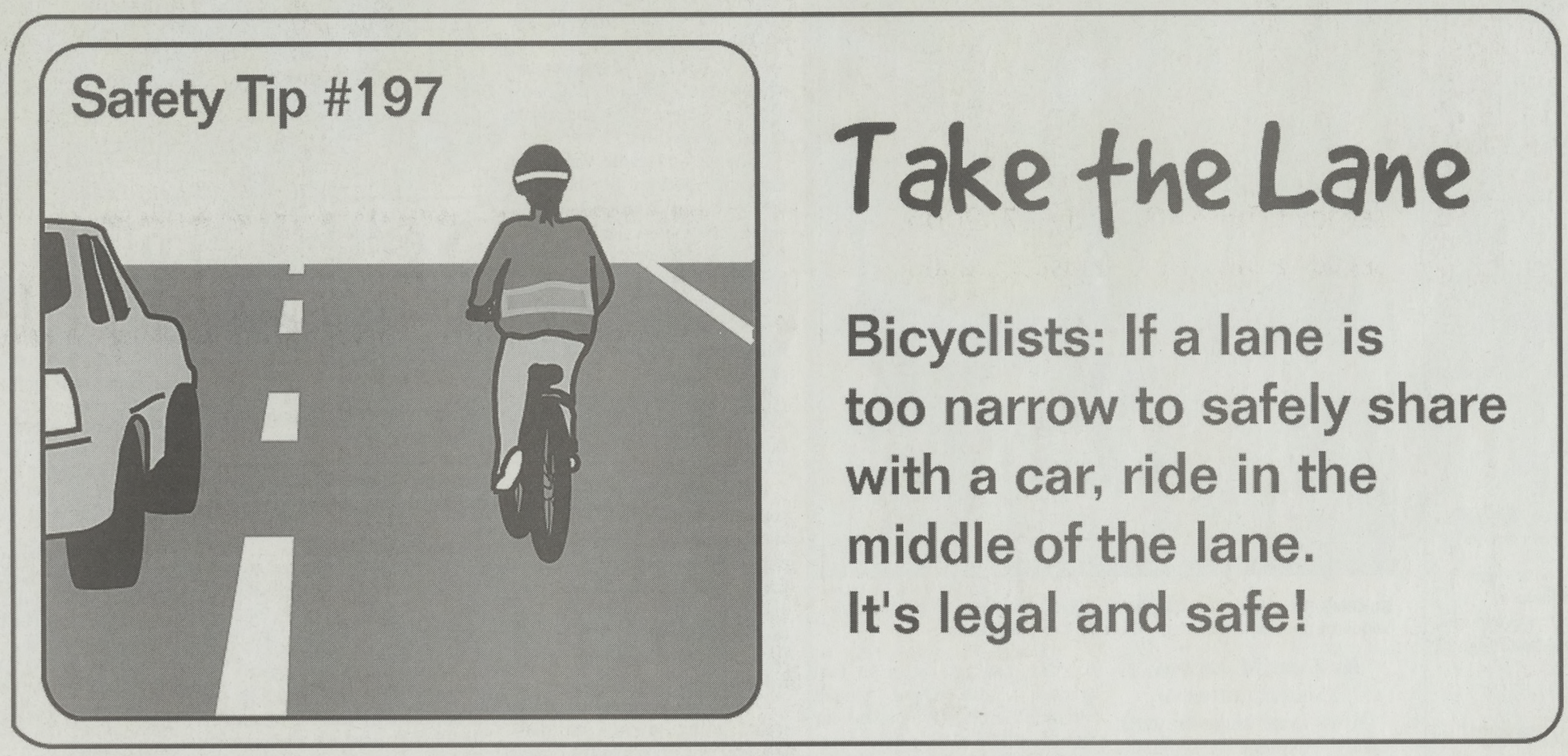
'Mission' *from page 1*

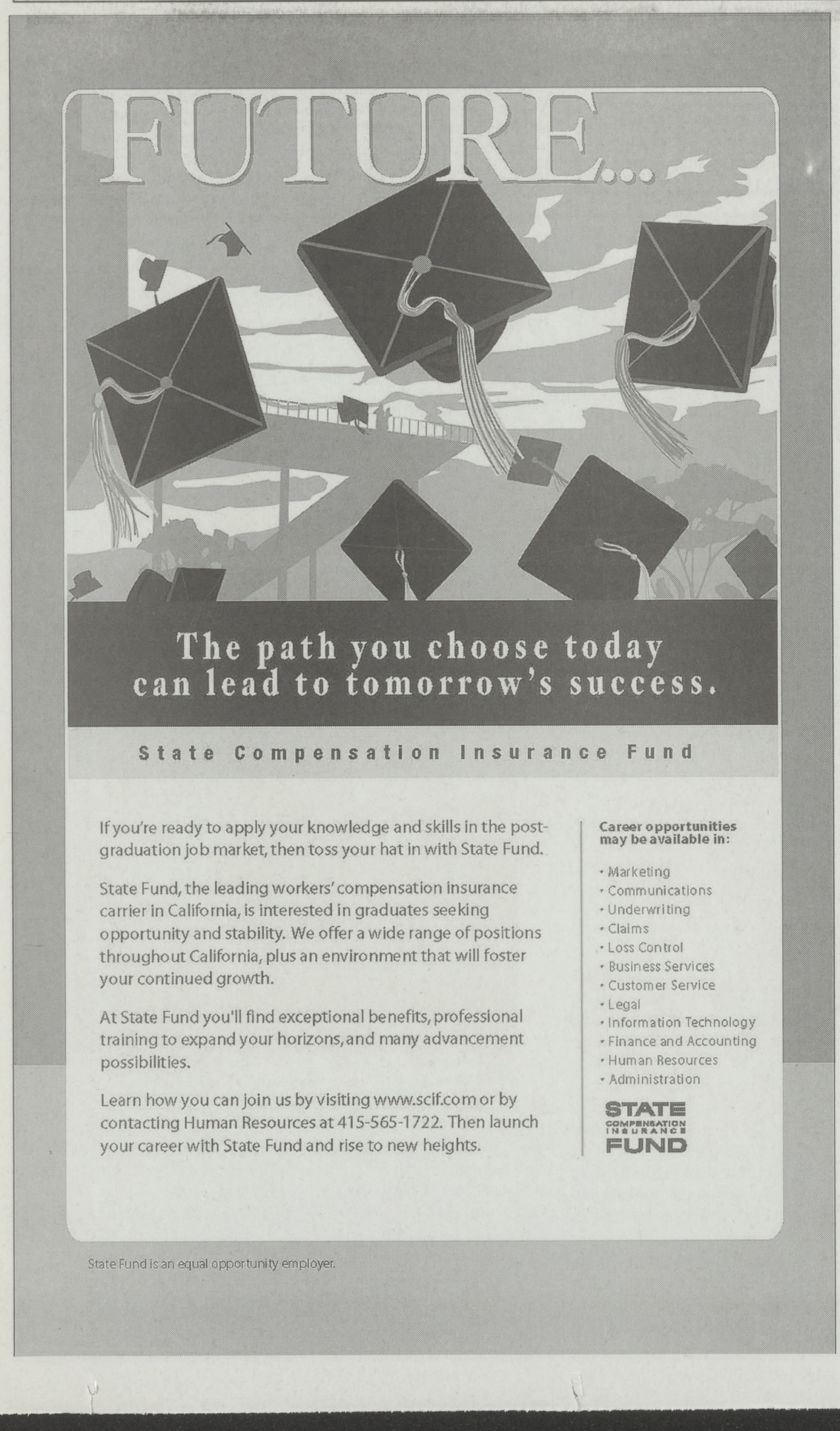
College District would be forced to pay the money back. The college receives nearly $30 million annually in state revenue and grants, campus officials said.

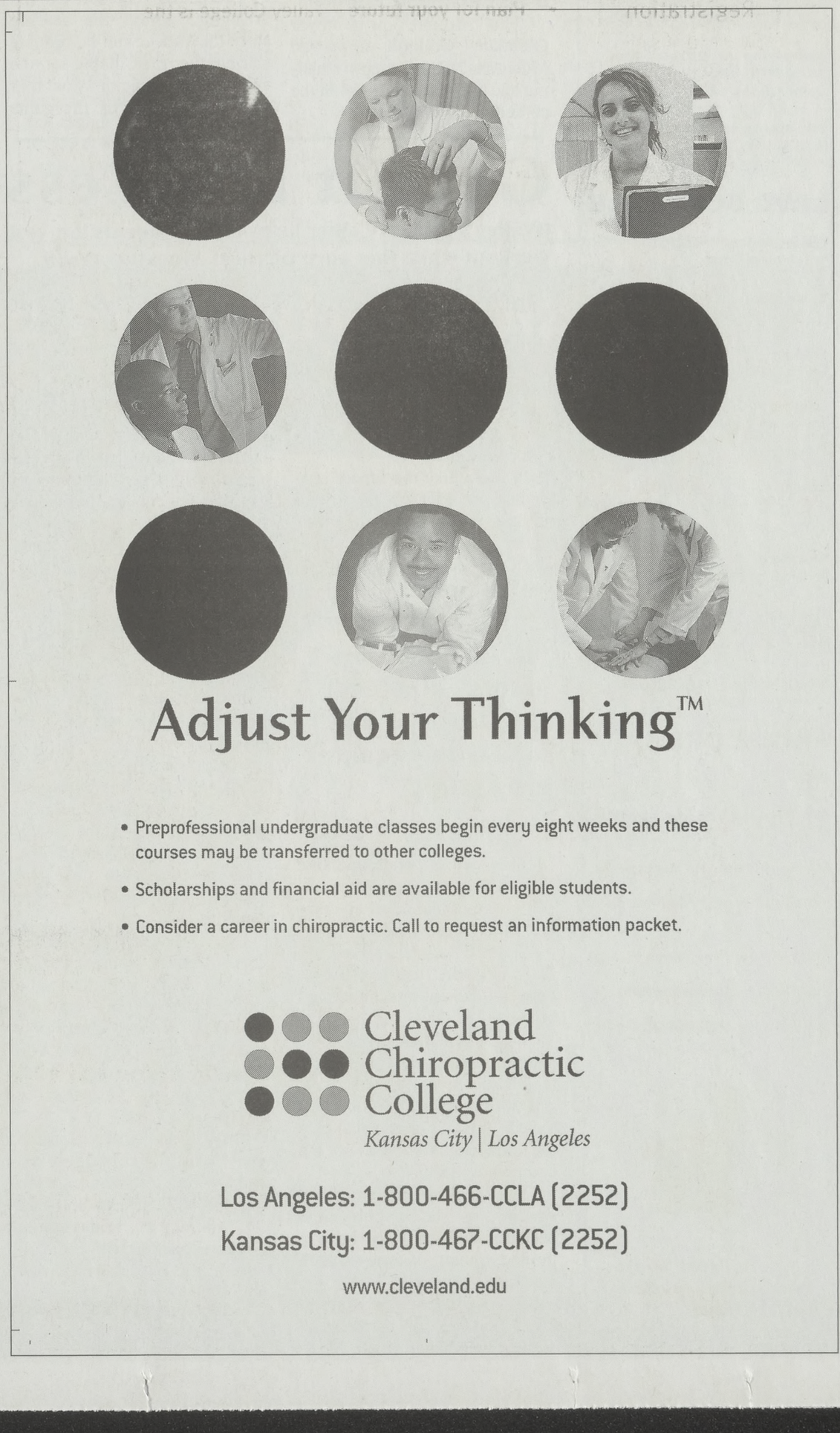
Mission President Adriana D. Barrera said she found out about the problem in March but thought the situation was taken care of.

Mission has begun prevention measures to ensure the problem doesn't happen again, including purchasing software to monitor use of campus computers, said Barrera in a recent report.

"I don't see any individual culpability," said LACCD Chancellor Peter J. Landsberger. "There certainly wasn't any intentional wrongdoing we're aware of."







Stars of the Week

Softball

Pauline Morquecho - Pitcher
She stroke out four and gave up no runs in a complete game.

Amanda Salazar
She stroke out four and gave up four runs on Thursday.

Lorena Arreguin
She batted six out eight including a home-run and a double.

Breckon Broner
She batted four out of six and had three catches.

Baseball

Eddie Baeza
He went two of three including a grand slam. He also pitched a complete game with ten sticke outs.

D.J. Lewis
He went one of three and drew two crucial walks.

Jorge Olmedo
He became the first Valley pitcher to beat Canyons in four seasons.

Track & Field

Steve Bautista
He threw the Javelin 161'8" feet and ran the 400 meter at 54.8 seconds.

Myriam LeMailloux
She competed in five events and broke her personal best in the 20 meter.

LAVC SCORES

Basbal vs. College of Canyons (W 7-3) 4/2/05
Baseball Record: 12-13, 6-5

Softball vs. Glendale (W 8-2) 3/31/05
Softball Record: 19-6-1, 10-4

Swimming vs. Citrus Men (W 143-76) 3/30/05
Softball Record: 1-3

Swimming vs. Citrus Women (L 122-101) 3/30/05
Softball Record: 0-3

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 4/6/05
No Scheduled Games

Thursday 4/7/05
Softball vs Citrus 1:00 p.m.

Friday 4/8/05
Swimming @ Santa Monica 2:30 p.m.

Saturday 4/9/05
Baseball vs Mission 1:00 p.m.
Track & Field @ WSC Prelims 9:00 a.m.
Softball @ Santa Barbara Tournament TBA

Sunday /410/05
Softball @ Santa Barbara Tournament TBA

Monday 4/11/05
No Scheduled Games

Tuesday 3/22/05
Softball @ Canyons 2:30 p.m.
Baseball @Fullerton Tournament

Wednesday 10/23/05
No Scheduled Games

PRO SCORES

MLB

San Franciso def. Los Angeles (4-2)

Cincinnati def. NY Mets (7-6)

Philadelphia def. Washington (8-4)

Colorado def. San Diego (12-10)

Seattle def. Minnesota (5-1)

Kansas City def. Detroit (11-2)

For more sport photos and stories, please visit www.lavalleystar.com

Valley Softball Sweeps Glendale in Double Header

■ The Lady Monarchs trounced Glendale Vaqueros during a double header Thursday.



Greg Burmann / Valley Star

SLIDING BY - Monarch outfielder Breckon Broner (left) beats Glendale Vaqueros second baseman on Thursday's double header.

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
SPORTS EDITOR

After some sluggish starts, Valley College's women's softball team bounced back Thursday, winning both games - 8-0 and 12-4 - and ending with a mercy rule during a doubleheader against Glendale Vaqueros.

The double win over Glendale College improved Monarchs' 19-6-1 overall standing and showed them 10-4 in the conference.

"We had one error in two games," said Head Coach Frankie Garcia. "We played our game well."

Monarchs' starting pitcher Pauline Morquecho pitched a complete game giving no runs and only two walks.

Monarchs' catcher Lorena Arreguin started the scoring rally for Valley with her double during the first inning of the first game with a home run during the fifth inning clinching an 8-0 victory over the Vaqueros.

Outfielder Breckon Broner's defense gave a boost to the Monarchs' victory, including her catch at the top of the fifth inning that led Vaqueros to lose with a mercy rule.

"[Broner] is phenomenal," said Garcia. "She is the complete package. She can do a little of everything."

The second game was quiet until the bottom of the third inning when Broner batted a single and stole second base. Following Broner was Amanda Salazar who hit a double.

The Lady Monarchs scored seven runs in the bottom of the third to take an early 7-0 lead over Glendale.

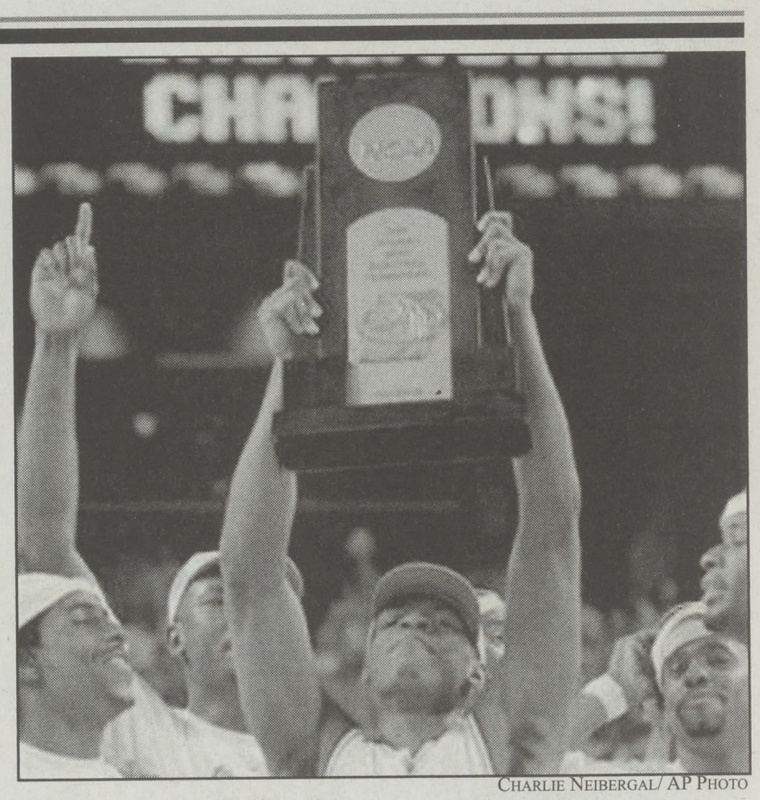
Valley scored another five runs in the bottom of fifth inning to finish the second game with a 12-4 victory.

"You hit your spots but sometimes they get it," said starting pitcher Salazar, who pitched the complete second game. Salazar struck out two and gave away four runs including a home run in the top of fifth, with a mercy rule at the bottom of that inning.

"If we are playing our game, we're going to win no matter who we play against," said Garcia. "We were playing our game for most of the day."

The Monarchs will host rival Citrus College on April 7 for a doubleheader starting at 1 p.m. The Lady Monarchs will also compete at the weekend Santa Barbara Tournament April 9 and 10.

Lady Monarchs Next Game
Santa Barbara Tournament
This Saturday and Sunday
April 9-10.



CHARLIE NEIBERGAL/ AP PHOTO

North Carolina Wins NCAA Title

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

ST LOUIS-North Carolina Head Coach Roy Williams finally earned the coveted NCAA national championship title that has eluded him for 17 years as the Tar Heels defeated the overall number-one-seeded Fighting Illini 75-70 Monday.

"I'm just happy for myself and my family," said Williams, former coach of the Kansas Jayhawks, in an interview with ESPN. "These seniors … took me for one heck of a ride."

The Tar Heels reached the championship game with an 87-71 victory over Michigan State Spartans, while the Fighting Illini defeated the Louisville Cardinals 72-57. It was the first trip to the championship game for the Illini, who finished the regular season a 32-1 record.

The game seemed out of reach for the Illini as the Tar Heels led 40-27 at halftime.

But Illinois, who fought back from a 15-point deficit to defeat the Arizona Wildcats in the elite eight, refused to back down. The Fighting Illini tied the game at 65 with 5:02 remaining.

After the Tar Heels took a brief 70-65 lead on junior guard Raymond Felton's three-point basket, and two free-throws from junior center Sean May, the Fighting Illini answered right back with a three from senior guard Luther Head that tied the game at 70 with 2:01 to play.

Senior forward Jawad Williams gave North Carolina the lead once again as his jumper put the Tar Heels up 72-70 with 1:30 to play.

Illinois guard Luther Head gave up a costly turnover with 33 seconds to play as Felton intercepted the senior's ill-advised pass.

Felton then put North Carolina up by three as he hit one of two free-throws, and put the game away with two additional free throws as Head's tying three-pointer was long with 15 seconds to play.

"Well, we played through exhaustion," said Illinois Head Coach Bruce Weber. "We didn't do too well in the first half, and they wanted it more. But we went down fighting. That's all I could ask for."

Get Fit For Less

■Valley's Fitness Center helps offers students low cost workout while they earn physical education credit.

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's little known fitness center allows students to stay in shape at almost no cost while earning a physical education credit.

"I really like the fitness center because it is fast-paced and not too crowded," said Valley student Michelle Murillo. "It is also cool because it's cheap and you get credit for it."

"It is a set program... [it offers] knowledge of how to use the equipment safely."

The center operates like Curves. It has two super circuits, a combination of an aerobic and cardiovascular workout. Each circuit has 24 stations in which the users alternate between weight machines and bikes.

"There are advantages to the super circuit," said fitness center instructor Ray Follosco. "It is a set program and you don't have to think, and you also gain the knowledge of how to use the equipment safely."

The super circuits are paced which cuts the waiting time because students only have a limited amount of time on each machine.

"I love the super circuit idea," said fitness center instructor Chris Johnson. "At a lot of health clubs you have to wait on machines for a long time and here everybody is always moving."

The fitness center is open to all ages and abilities. In order to use it, students must sign up for one of the fitness classes offered such as Physical Education 630 and then set up an individual workout schedule. In order to get an 'A' in the class students must work out 34 hours or more that semester.

"You are only allowed to take the class four semesters, but there are a few different ones that you can take," said Follosco. "Some people come [to Valley] just to take this class."

Along with the super circuit the center also has warm-up and cool-down mats, aerobic machines, and weight lifting machines for students to use. There is always an instructor on duty to help students use the machines.

One of the drawbacks of the Fitness Center to the school is the cost of the machines. The price tag for each bike is around $800 and for the machines it is about $6,000 to 8,000 each. The fitness center is currently holding an ongoing fundraiser to help raise funds.

The Fitness Center is located in the South Gym and is open Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Track Team Falls Short

■Valley Track & Field took third place in the final meet of its regular season.

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Monarchs' Track and Field team concluded their regular season in a five-way conference meet at Santa Monica College Friday.

"We had a hard fight," said Head Coach Francois Wolman. "The meet was decided on the last minute points."

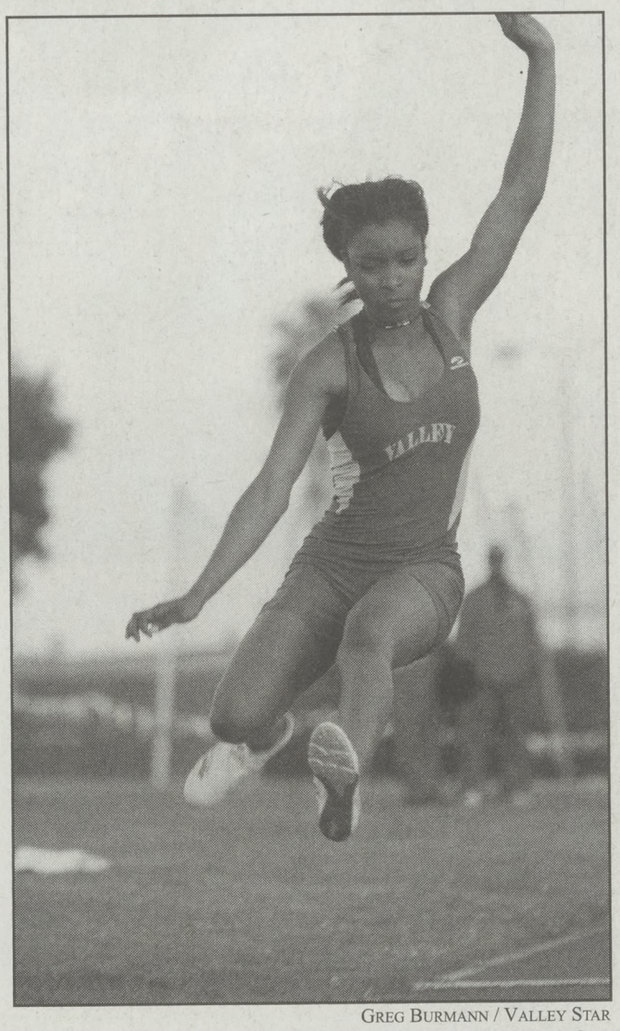
The five-way conference meet Monarchs competed against Santa Monica, Santa Barbara, Allan Hancock, and the hosting team West Los Angeles at Santa Monica College.

"We were scoring late points... but we weren't able to finish it all the way."

Valley men's and women's both took third place falling behind Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara as Monarchs prepare to compete at Azusa Pacific University's Meet of Champions which will feature many Division I teams and world class athletes.

Myriam LeMailloux was named women's athlete of the week, as she competed in 4x100 meter relay, 400-meter 4x400 meter relay, long jump, and high jump and broke her personal best in 200-meter.

The men's athlete of the week is Steven Bautista who broke his personal best javelin with almost 15 feet with a distance of 161'8" feet. Bautista also competed in 400-meter and 4x400-meter relay.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

FLYING HIGH - Valley triple jumper Gladys Nyoth leaps for a win at the Track & Field meet.

"We were scoring late points," said Wolman. "But we weren't able to finish it all the way."

"It was like a late election," said assistant coach Bob Macias. "Everything is being decided on last minute today."

The Monarchs will compete at Azusa Pacific University's Meet of Champions this Saturday before the head to Western State Conference Prelims April 16 at Moorpark

SPORTS

Valley Baseball Sweeps College of the Canyons

■Baeza dominates the game as the Monarchs defeated Cougars (7-3).

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
SPORTS EDITOR

SANTA CLARITA- Riding the arm of sophomore pitcher Eddie Baeza, the Valley College Monarchs Baseball team defeated the College of the Canyons Cougars 7-3. Completing a two-game sweep of the Cougars Saturday, the Monarchs topped Thursday's 8-4 win as Valley improved to record to 13-12 overall, while flexing a 7-5 conference record.

"This game was big for us," said Head Coach Dave Mallas. "To sweep a team like Canyons [who has won the conference title the past three seasons] is huge for us."

Valley's victory over Canyons was an incredible stepping stone for the Monarchs, who have amassed a 0-12 record against the Cougars in three seasons.

"This game was big for us … to sweep a team like Canyons is huge for us."

Saturday's game looked to be an easy victory for Canyons as the Cougars jumped on Baeza after sophomore pitcher Adam Geery shut down the Monarchs in the top of the first as he faced seven batters in the first inning.

After settling down in the second inning, Baeza took the game into his own hands in the third inning as the sophomore pitcher belted a grand slam while left fielder DJ Lewis drew a crucial one-out walk after being down 0-2 in the count.

Freshman right-fielder Josh Cliffords, hit by a pitch, reached base safely, as did shortstop Daniel Gomez and second baseman Robert Ninfo.

"It feels good knowing that you can win a game even after getting off to a slow start," said Baeza. "My mindset after the first inning was just to tear them apart with my arm and my bat."

Valley added to its lead as Geery walked Lewis and Baeza in the fifth inning before catcher Raul Perez's sacrifice fly scored Baeza.

The Monarchs added another run in the fifth inning as a throwing error by Cougar second baseman Matt Reimers scored Lewis from third.

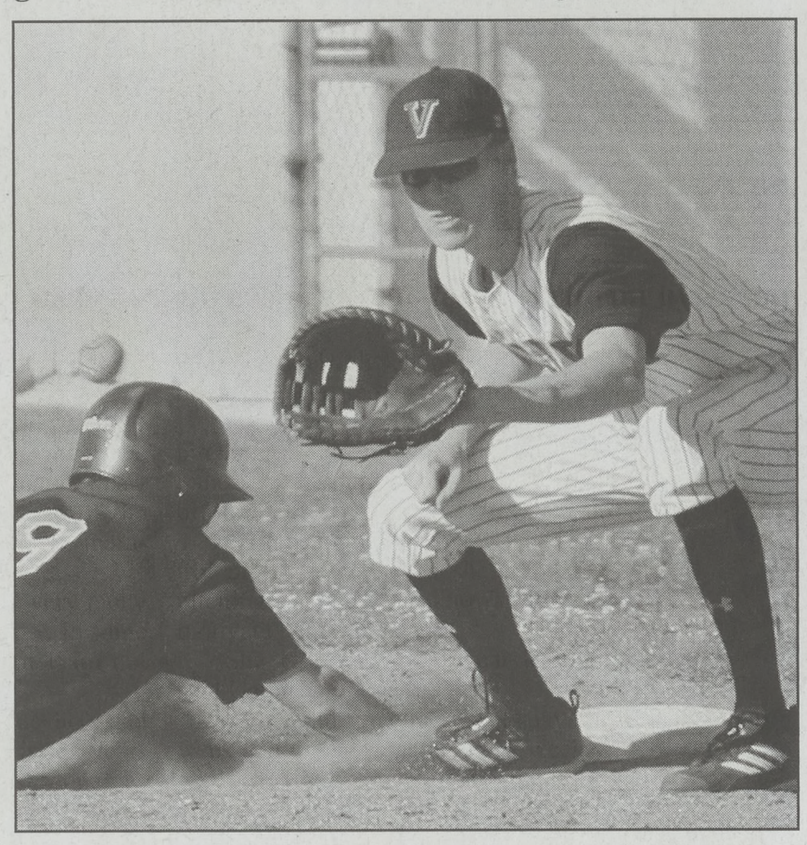
Canyons added a run in the bottom of the fifth inning as shortstop Brian Chavez scored off a wild pitch from Baeza. Chavez doubled to open the inning and moved over to third on a Nick Petrucci single.

Baeza continued to dominate the game as he limited the Cougars to just four hits and one run.

"We've struggled the last couple of games," said Baeza. "To come in and beat [Canyons] is great."

As the Monarchs prepare for a bye week, Mallas added that improvements need to be made and he wants the team to be competitive and focused on winning.

"We need to more competitive offensively," explained Mallas. "We struck out 16 times today. Defensively, we need to work on cutting back on our errors, but we're doing okay as a team."

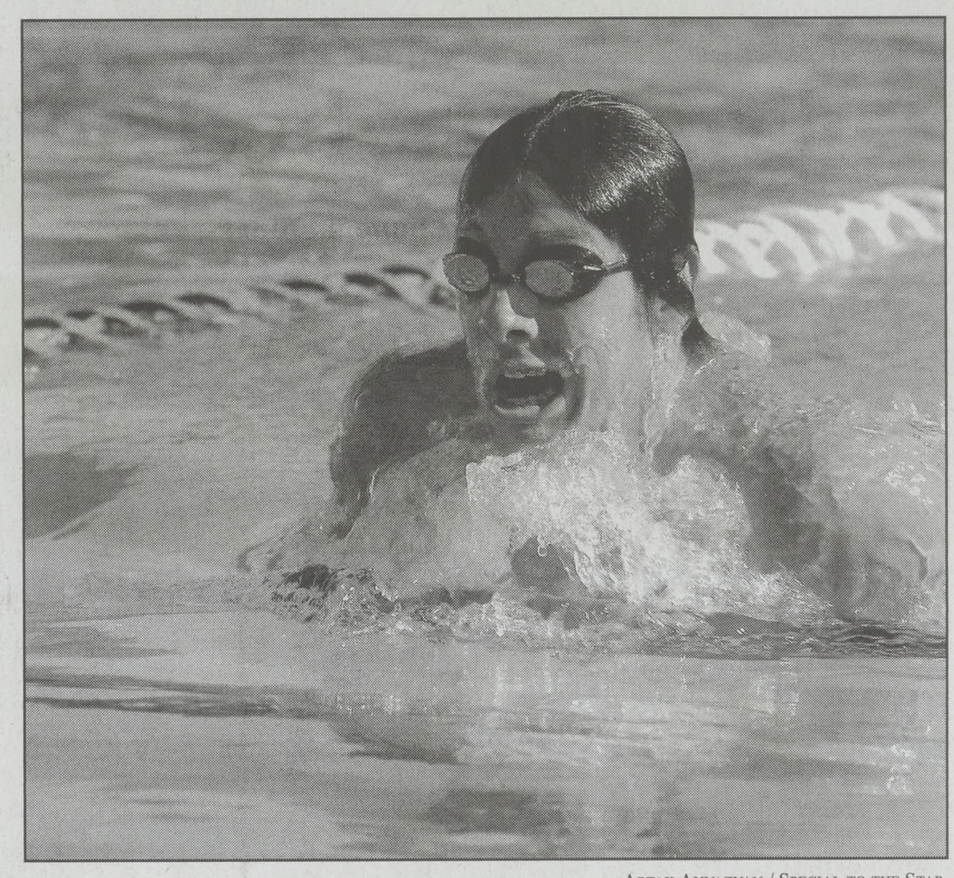


SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

ON TOP OF THINGS- Canyons outfielder Jeff Knosp survives a pick off attempt by Valley first basemen Matt Jordan Friday at Valley.

Valley College Swimmers Sink the Citrus Owls

■Valley men's swim team defeated the Citrus College Owls as the women's team fell short just by few points last Wednesday.



ARTAK AYVAZYAN / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

PUTTING HIS BEST BREAST FORWARD - Valley Breast Stroker Matt Alberti helped contribute to the Monarchs' win March 30.

BY SCOTT MITCHELL
SPICAL TO STAR

The Monarchs' swim team defeated the Citrus College Owls 143-76 on Wednesday as they improved there over all record to 2-2.

The Lady Monarchs fell short despite their hard work, losing 122-101 as their record dropped to 0-3 for the season.

"Everyone did what they had to do," said Head Coach Jim McMillan. "We had to put people in different events because we were missing our breast strokers ."

McMillan was pleased with the team's effort and said, "our guys stepped up, winning is their reward for hard training."

Adrian Mendosa won the three-meter diving event for the first time in his swimming career. Preston Vowels won the 50-meter freestyle and the 100-meter freestyle with times of 23.3 and 52.2.

"It was really close," said McMillan. "They swam real well, but Citrus just had more swimmers then we did and that is the bottom line."

Megan Winchell won the 100-meter breaststroke, which qualified her for the state meet.

Val Alberti won the 100-, 200-, and 500-meter freestyle for the Lady Monarchs and Katlin Houlison improved greatly in the 500-meter freestyle.

The Monarchs have two more meets against Pierce College and Santa Monica College before the conference Championships when they head to Cuesta College.

"Having won the last two meets will give us a positive feeling going into the conference championships," McMillan said. "If they all swim their best times, we stand to get second in the conference and that would be very good."

Morquecho Sets Example for Lady Monarchs

■Monarchs' starting picher Pauline Morquecho leads her team by example when she's on the pitching mound.

ZABIE MANSOORY
SPORTS EDITOR

She might be short; she might be picky; she might be lazy; but 19-year-old Pauline Morquecho is one of the best pitchers in the league and maintains a 3.0 grade point average.

The 5'3" pitcher says "I very picky on what I eat and where I eat… In some ways, I am very lazy when I am not playing."

At the age of six, Morquecho's dad introduced her to t-ball. Thirteen years later, she leads the Lady Monarchs to victory day after day as a starting pitcher.

"She is one of the toughest competitors," said Head Coach Frankie Garcia. "When she is pitching, she leads by example."

"She is one of the toughest competitors ...When she is pitching, she leads by example."

Morquecho worked hard to get to the level she is now. She has had a private pitching coach since she was ten years old.

"She was not the most athletic kid on the block," said Morquecho's dad, Orlando. "She had to work double to get where she now."

Morquecho pitched four years at Birmingham High School's varsity team before she became a Lady Monarch.

"She is very confident when she is pitching," said fellow pitcher Amanda Salazar. "She pumps people up on and off the field.'

Morquecho knows how to take control of the game when she is on the pitching mound and knows how to motivate her teammates.

"She is definitely a great leader," said Garcia.

Morquecho practices five days a week and pitches a game twice weekly while holding down a part time job on the weekends. When she finds free time, which isn't often, Morquecho likes to relax and watch movies at home.

The shy Morquecho likes to stay home with her boyfriend, but she also likes to go out with friends.

"While I don't get to spend much time with my family," said Morquecho, "I enjoy ever moment that I do."

During the first of the doubleheader games on Thursday against Glendale, Morquecho struck out four batters in a row and didn't give any runs or walks.

While Morquecho doesn't know what career she wants to pursue, she is looking forward to finishing her second semester majoring in cinema production and though coach Garcia doesn't like to think that Morquecho will leave, Morquecho hopes to eventually transfer to a university.

"It's hard to maintain your grades, work and go to practice almost every day," said Morquecho. "But I am managing it well so far."



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR ILLUSTRATION

SHINNG BRIGHTLY- Pitcher Pauline Morquecho has helped lead the Lady Monarchs to a 19-6-1 record in her first season.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

YES YOU CAN - Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America and the creator of the famous phrase "Si se puede," which means "Yes you can," signed autographs for young fans. Huerta said that the children are not only our future but also our present.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

VIVA CESAR CHAVEZ! - The spirited crowd chanted its message during the 12th annual March For Justice and Cultural Arts Festival which took place in San Fernando over the weekend.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

BEAUTIFUL COLORS - Nuestra Señora de la Paz ballet folklorico dancers of North Hills performed Mexican dances such as jarabe tapatio and veracruzano which brought flair to the festival.

Community Celebrates Cesar Chavez

All Content

by

Daniel Villasenor

Color, music and dance were part of the folklore Sunday at the 12th annual March for Justice, organized by the Cesar Chavez Commemorative Committee of San Fernando. The celebration featured many special guests including Andres Herrera, Dolores Huerta, Congressman Howard Berman, State Senator Richard Alarcon and others. Hundreds of supporters from different groups marched from Brand Park down Brand Boulevard, converging at the newly renamed Cesar Chavez Park where festival-goers welcomed them. Mariachi music flowed in the background throughout the festival and the Danzantes Aztecas led the opening and closing ceremonies with customary rituals.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

SACRED GODS - The Aztec dancers offer gratitude to the Virgen de Guadalupe for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon them.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

MARIACHI LOCO - The Master Mariachi Apprentice Program students, dressed in ornate mariachi outfits, performed at the festival to honor the memory of Cesar Chavez.